Database Service and relaunch Express Parcel Post and Indian Postal Order to generate more revenue. The raising of additional resources through commercial publicity on postal stationery and postal buildings is also being envisaged.

(c) The Conference of Chief Postmasters General was convened in Delhi on 04.09.98. It held wide ranging and meaningful discussions on the report of Justice Talwar Committee on ED agents. National Postal Policy, Citizens' Charter, Generation of Resources and Augmentation of Preventive Vigilance Machinery. These discussions provided useful inputs for improving the quality of various postal services.

(d) Justice Talwar Committee recommendations arc under active consideration of the Government.

(e) The details of major achievements during the 8th Plan period is at Annex 'A'. The 8th Plan achievements of Maharashtra Circle is at Annex 'B' Major programmes proposed during the current year and 9th Plan are at Annex "C and "D' respectively. At Annex 'E' are the 9th Plan and Annual Plan programmes proposed for Maharashtra Circle, *[see* Appendix 185, Annexure 14]

**National Postal Policy**

534. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formulation of a National Postal Policy undertaken in 1992 has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) to (c) In 1992, action was initiated to draft a National Postal Policy but the matter did not progress further thereafter. During 1997, a draft National Postal Policy was prepared and submitted for consideration of the Consultative Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Communications in its meeting held on 20.8.97. However, discussions remained inconclusive as in the meanwhile the Lok Sabha was dissolved. Keeping in view the rapid socio-economic development and all pervasive technological advances in the communication sector and increasing pressure for faster and more efficient service and to offer value added services especially tailor made for identified customer segments, the draft National Postal Policy has been further modified and is at present under active consideration.

**Harassment of Small Investors in Post Offices**

535. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article that appeared in India Today on page 71 dated 9th November, 1998 under the caption "Safe deposits, despite red tape, saving in post office schemes is the best bet for small investors";

(b) what is the amount in such deposits as on 30th November, 1998;

(c) whether Government are aware that investors many of them poor and illiterate persons in villages, and small towns face harassment due to clumsy and out-dated procedures for withdrawing money; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to streamline procedures so that depositors are saved from harassment at Post offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of total, money in all such deposits (small savings schemes and savings certificates put together) as on 30th September, 1998 is Rs. 13,81,62.17 crores only.